

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An in-line egg labelling system for applying a label on  
eggs travelling into grippers of a conveyer, said system comprising at least  
5 one labelling device mounted beneath said conveyer and provided with a  
label applying arm for applying a label on an exposed area of the surface  
of said eggs.

2. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 1,  
10 wherein said exposed egg surface area is facing generally downwards.

3. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 1  
wherein said conveyer is part of an egg packing and grading system  
comprising a controller and wherein each travelling egg has a destination.  
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4. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 3  
further comprising a computerised labelling control system and a user  
interface for the automatic individual selection of the eggs to be labelled  
on the basis of at least one user set parameter and at least one input  
20 parameter communicated by said controller.

5. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 4,  
wherein said at least one input parameter indicates a destination for each  
travelling egg.  
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6. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 4,  
wherein said at least one user set parameter comprises a parameter  
specifying for which destinations eggs are to be labelled.

7. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 4,  
wherein said at least one user set parameter comprises a first parameter  
specifying for which destinations eggs are to be labelled, and a second  
parameter specifying a desired ratio for the number of labelled  
5 eggs/number of packed eggs at a destination.

8. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 4,  
wherein said labelling control system and interface further perform  
generation and output of statistical data about labelling activities carried  
10 out by the labelling system.

9. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 1,  
further comprising at least one sensing device for travelling egg position  
monitoring.  
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10. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 1,  
further comprising an egg surface drying device.

11. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 10,  
20 wherein said drying device comprises an air stream generating device.

12. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 1,  
wherein said labelling system further comprises at least one label  
smoothing device for applying a slight pressure on applied labels to  
25 promote adhesion and proper conforming of labels to egg surfaces.

13. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 12,  
wherein said label smoothing device comprises a brush member.

14. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 12, wherein said label smoothing device comprises a roller member.

5 15. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 12, wherein said label smoothing device comprises at least one air jet.

10 16. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 1, wherein said conveyer comprises two parallel longitudinal rows of grippers and said labelling system comprises two labelling devices, each one being dedicated to the labelling of eggs transported by a specific row of grippers.

15 17. An in-line egg labelling system as recited in claim 1, wherein said conveyer comprises three parallel longitudinal rows of grippers and said labelling system comprises three labelling devices, each one being dedicated to the labelling of eggs transported by a specific row of grippers.